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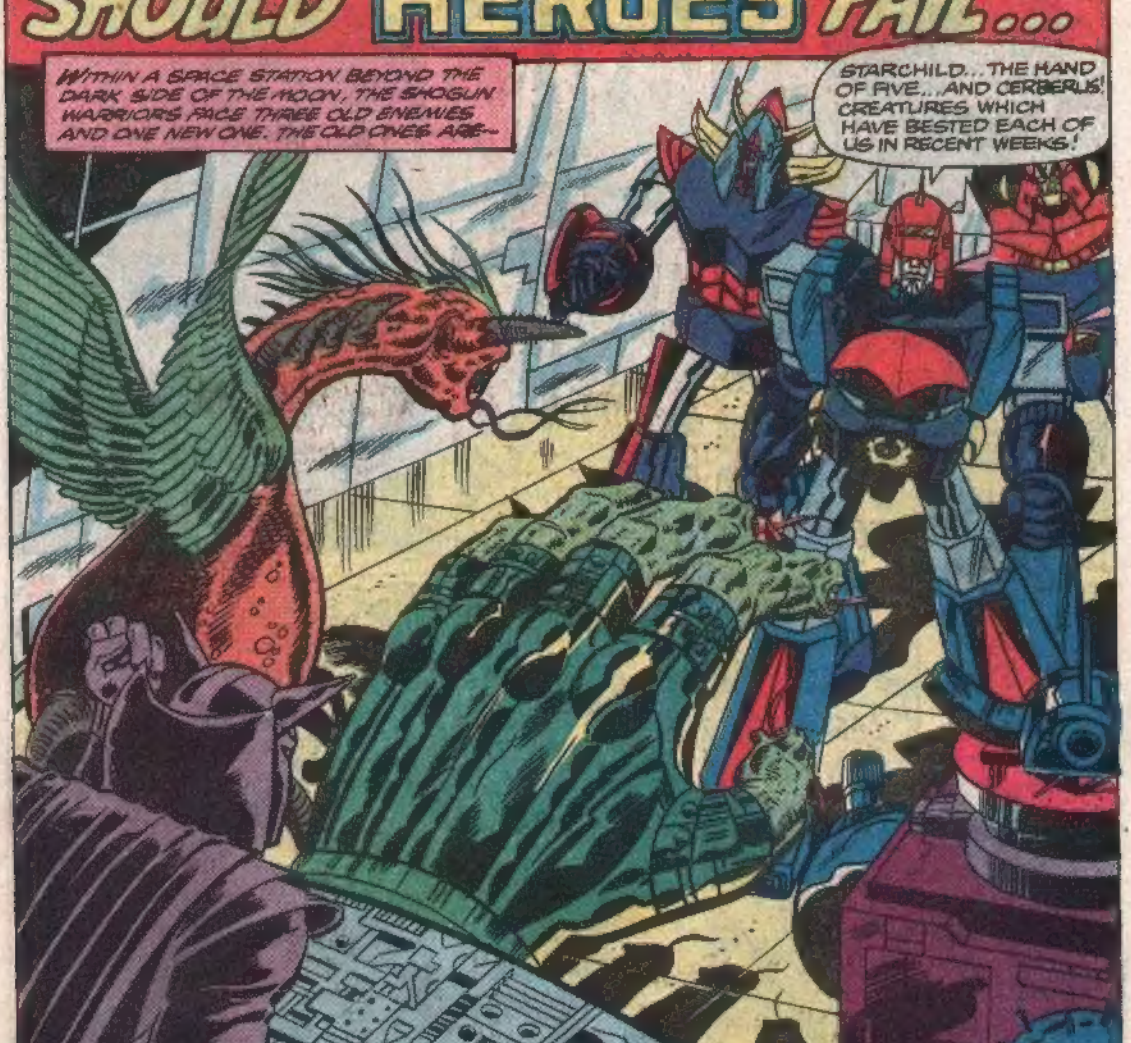
SHOGUN WARRIORS
TM
WE HAVE YOU NOW, DOCTOR DEMONICUS!
TOO LATE, SHOGUNS! I'VE ALREADY LAUNCHED MY GIANT METEOR AT EARTH!

From an ancient sanctuary hidden in the mountains of Japan come Raydeen, Combatra and Dangard Ace— giant robots operated by three courageous humans, Richard Carson, Genji Odashu, and Ilongo Savage — ready to fight the forces of evil wherever they arise!

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: SHOGUN WARRIORS™

## SHOULD HEROES FAIL...


WITHIN A SPACE STATION BEYOND THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON, THE SHOGUN WARRIORS FACE THREE OLD ENEMIES AND ONE NEW ONE. THE OLD ONES ARE--
STARCHILD... THE HAND OF FIVE... AND CERBERUS! CREATURES WHICH HAVE BESTED EACH OF US IN RECENT WEEKS!
AND THE NEW ONE IS THEIR MASTER, DR. DEMONICUS. HE IS QUITE INSANE.

| DOUG MOENCH | HERB TRIMPE | MIKE ESPOSITO | COSTANZA | SHAREN | AL MILGROM | JIM SHOOTER |
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| writer | artist | inker | letters | colors | editor | editor-in-chief |

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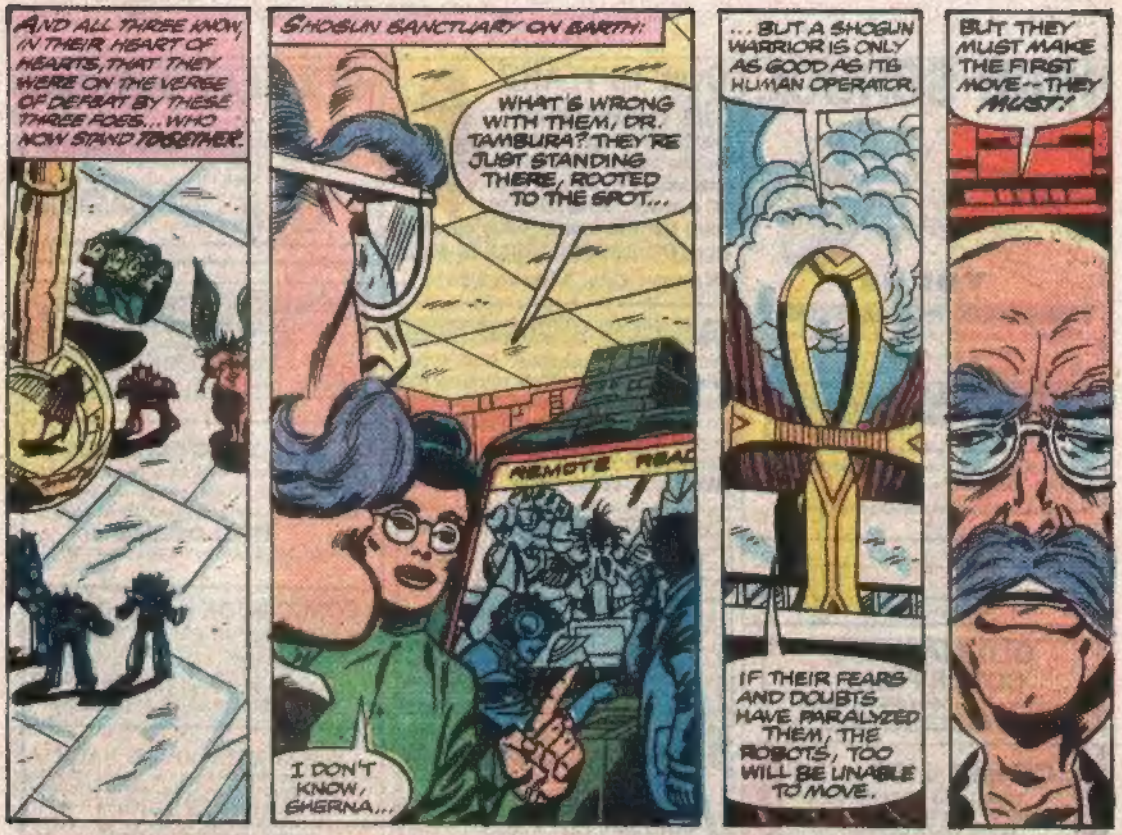
WELCOME TO THE FINAL STAGE OF OUR CONTEST, SHOGUN WARRIORS. YOU ALREADY KNOW MY THREE CROWNING CREATIONS. BUT WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW, IS THAT A CERTAIN DEVICE HAS JUST BEEN ACTIVATED--
--PULLING A HUGE METEOR INTO A FIELD OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FORCE, DIRECTED STRAIGHT AT EARTH.
THE TIMER HAS ALREADY BEGUN ITS COUNTDOWN.
SO THE GAME IS NOW REDUCED TO ITS SIMPLEST FORM: DEFEAT MY THREE CREATIONS AND DEACTIVATE THE TIMER WITHIN THE HOUR-- OR EARTH WILL BE PULVERIZED...
...AND I SHALL WIN!
NOW... LET THE GAME BEGIN!
TIME SEEMS TO FREEZE AS--
--INSIDE MIGHTY RAYDEEN, RICHARD CARSON IS ASSAILED BY MEMORIES HE'D RATHER FORGET...
A FIGHT ON THE BEACH...
A TERRIBLE FIGHT, AGAINST THE MANY HEADS OF CERBERUS.
GENJI ODASHU, TOO, REMEMBERS...
...COMBATRA'S FIGHT WITH THE HAND OF FIVE HEADS.
NOR IS LONGO SAVAGE IMMUNE...
HIS MEMORY HARKS BACK TO THE ISLE OF MADAGASCAR, WHERE DAREDEVIL ACE BATTLED THE STAR-CHILD CREATURE.


AND ALL THREE KNOW, IN THEIR HEART OF HEARTS, THAT THEY WERE ON THE VERGE OF DEFEAT BY THESE THREE FOES... WHO NOW STAND TOGETHER.
SHOGUN SANCTUARY ON EARTH:
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM, DR. TAMBURA? THEY'RE JUST STANDING THERE, ROOTED TO THE SPOT...
I DON'T KNOW, SHERNA...
...BUT A SHOGUN WARRIOR IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS HUMAN OPERATOR.
IF THEIR FEARS AND DOUBTS HAVE PARALYZED THEM, THE ROBOTS, TOO WILL BE UNABLE TO MOVE.
BUT THEY MUST MAKE THE FIRST MOVE--THEY MUST!

THEY DON'T.
IN HIS GLASSINE COMMAND PERCH, DEMONICUS IS GROSSLY JUBILANT...
THAT'S IT! ATTACK THEM WITH FULL FORCE--KILL THE HUMAN OPERATORS! THE ROBOTS MUST BE MINE!!
AND IN THEIR SECLUDED SANCTUARY, THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT KNOW NOTHING BUT DESPAIR...
IT'S USELESS, DR. TAMBURA.
THEY'VE FORFEITED THE INITIATIVE--A BAD PORTENT FOR THE COMING BATTLE...



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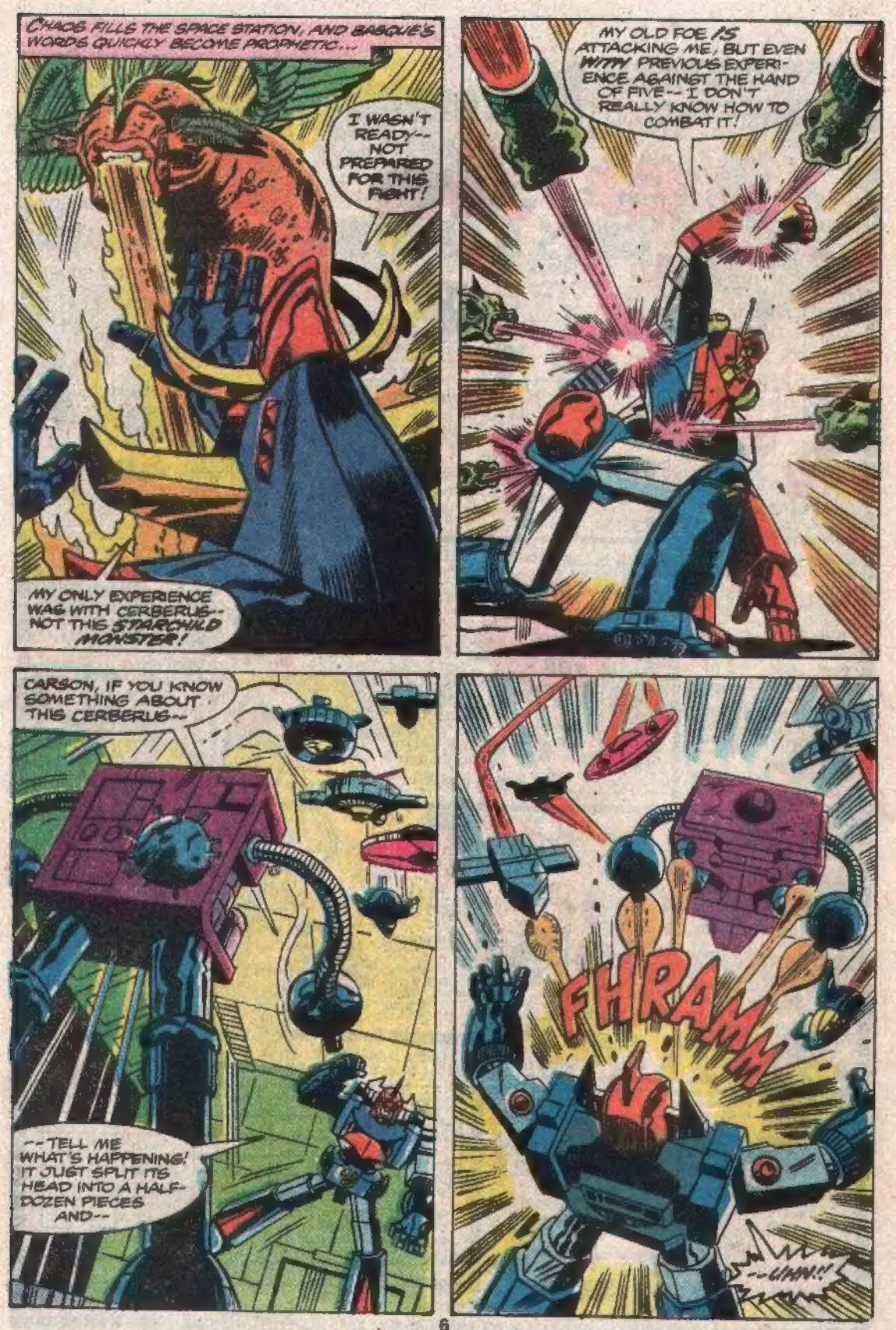
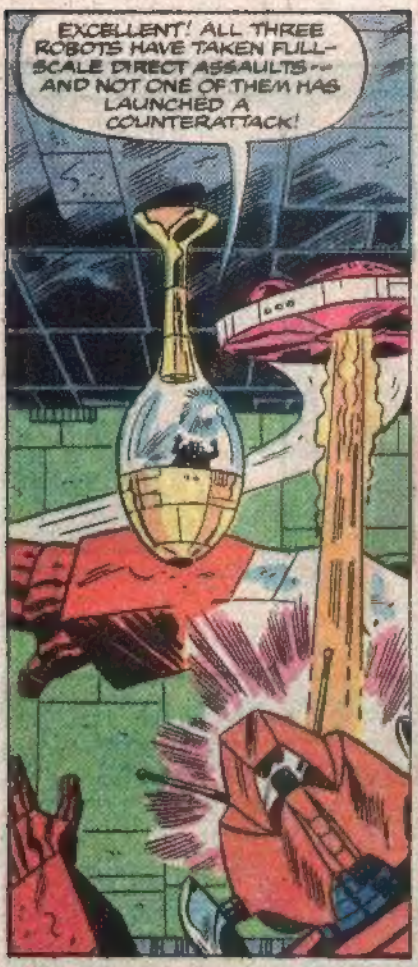
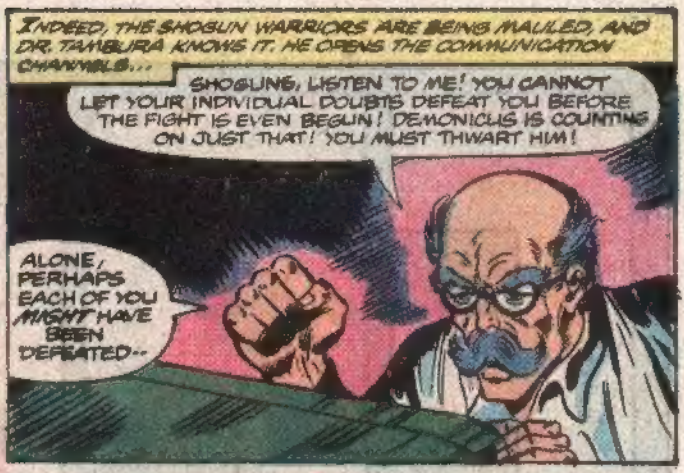
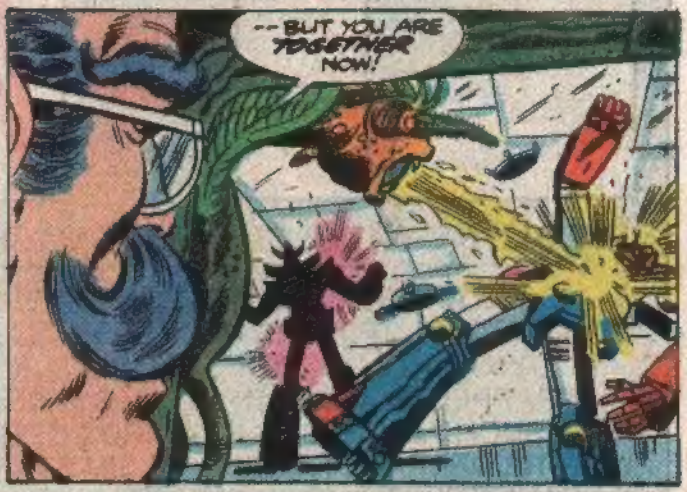
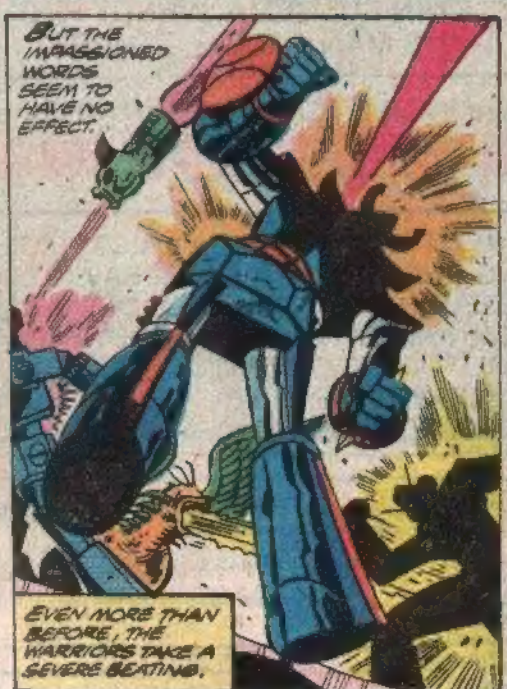

CHAOS FILLS THE SPACE STATION, AND BASQUE'S WORDS QUICKLY BECOME PROPHETIC...
I WASN'T READY-- NOT PREPARED FOR THIS FIGHT!
MY ONLY EXPERIENCE WAS WITH CERBERUS-- NOT THIS STARCHILD MONSTER!
MY OLD FOE IS ATTACKING ME, BUT EVEN WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AGAINST THE HAND OF FIVE-- I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO COMBAT IT!
CARSON, IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CERBERUS--
--TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING! IT JUST SPLIT ITS HEAD INTO A HALF-DOZEN PIECES AND--
FHRAMM
--UHH!!





INDEED, THE SHOGUN WARRIORS ARE BEING MAULED, AND DR. TANIGUCHI KNOWS IT. HE OPENS THE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS...
SHOGUNS, LISTEN TO ME! YOU CANNOT LET YOUR INDIVIDUAL DOUBTS DEFEAT YOU BEFORE THE FIGHT IS EVEN BEGUN! DEMONICUS IS COUNTING ON JUST THAT! YOU MUST THWART HIM!
ALONE, PERHAPS EACH OF YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN DEFEATED--





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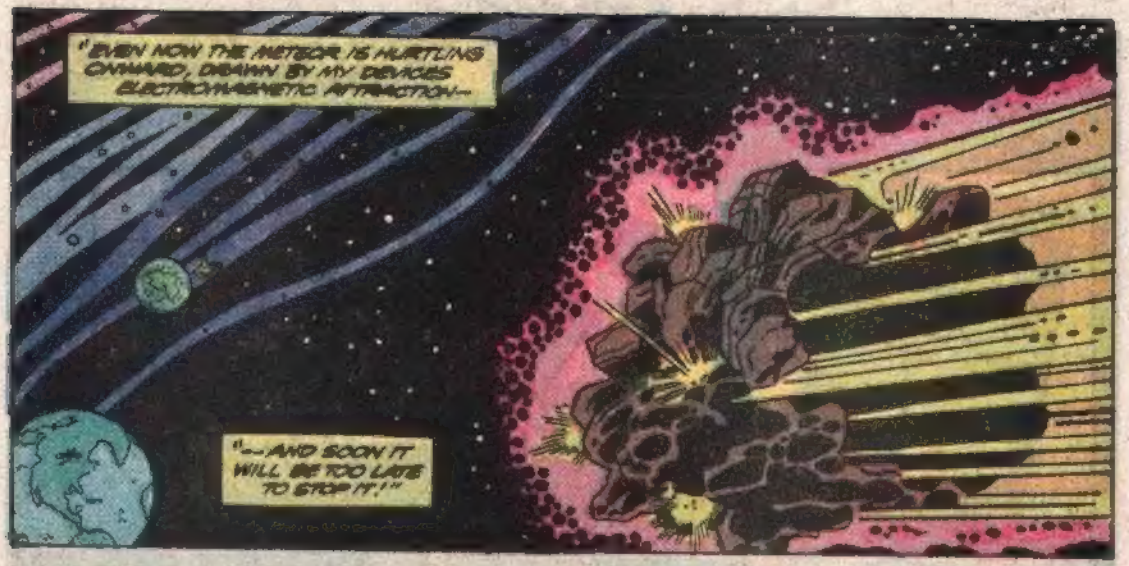
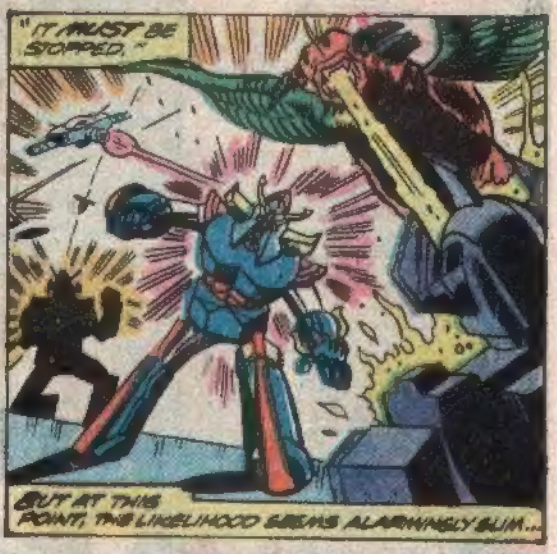

"EVEN NOW THE METEOR IS HURTLING ONWARD, DRAWN BY MY DEVICES ELECTROMAGNETIC ATTRACTION--
"--AND SOON IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO STOP IT!"

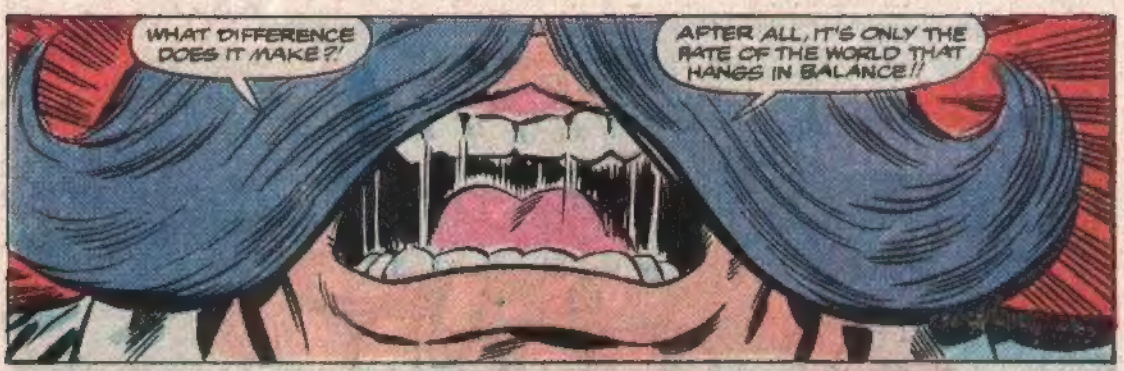
WE'VE JUST PICKED UP THE METEOR ON OUR SCANNERS, DR. TAMBURA--IT'S EVEN BIGGER THAN THE FIRST ONE. THE DESTRUCTION TO EARTH WILL BE GREATER THAN THE COMPUTER'S EARLIER PROJECTIONS!
THEN THERE'S NO OTHER WAY...


"IT MUST BE STOPPED."
BUT AT THIS POINT, THE LIKELIHOOD SEEMS ALARMINGLY SLIM...

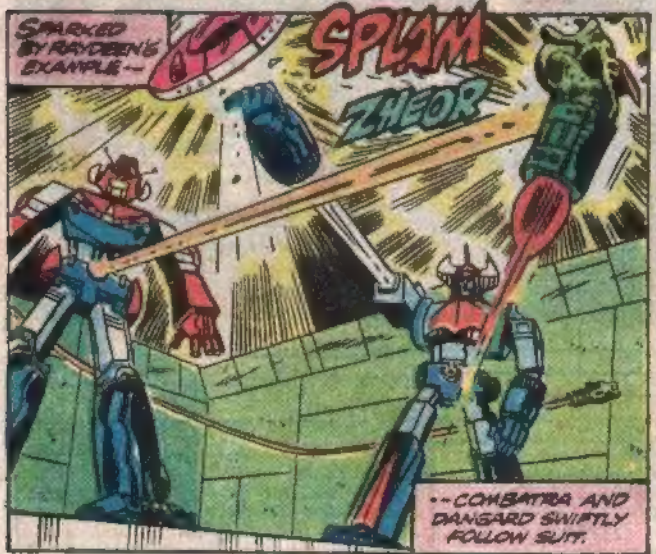
SHOGUNS, HEAR ME! YOU MUST TRULY UNITE, FORMING A SUPERGESTALT -- GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS INDIVIDUAL PARTS!

BUT PERHAPS YOU'RE JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH! PERHAPS WE PICKED THE WRONG AGENTS -- YOU'RE NOT THE BEST EARTH CAN OFFER! YOU'RE TOO WEAK!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP AND DIE?!



THE THREE AGENTS OF LIGHT ARE STUNG BY TAMBURA'S WORDS AND BY THE SHAME OF THEIR INACTION...
OH YEAH? DON'T COUNT US OUT YET, DOC!
WE...WE'RE NOT COWARDS!
RIGHT! WE JUST WEREN'T READY!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN BROKEN YET!
YOU SAID IT, SAVAGE! AND IT'S TIME ONE OF RAYDEEN'S MISSILE-ARROWS BROKE THE ICE!
CHBOOM!



GOOD! NOW THAT I'VE REAWAKENED YOUR EGOS, YOU MUST LET THOSE EGOS DIE FOR THE DURATION! YOU MUST LET YOUR "SELVES" DIE--AND MERGE WITH YOUR MACHINES!



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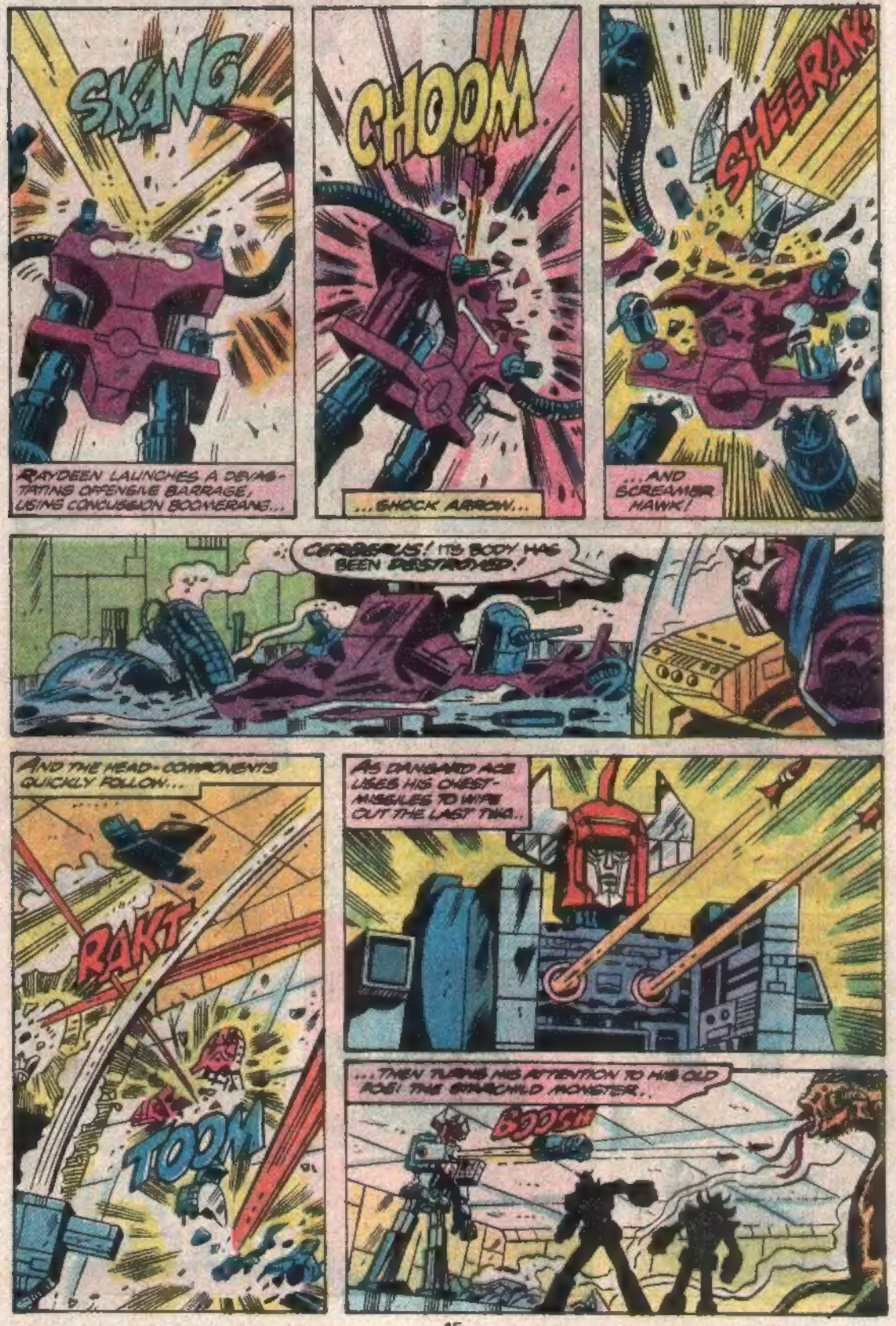
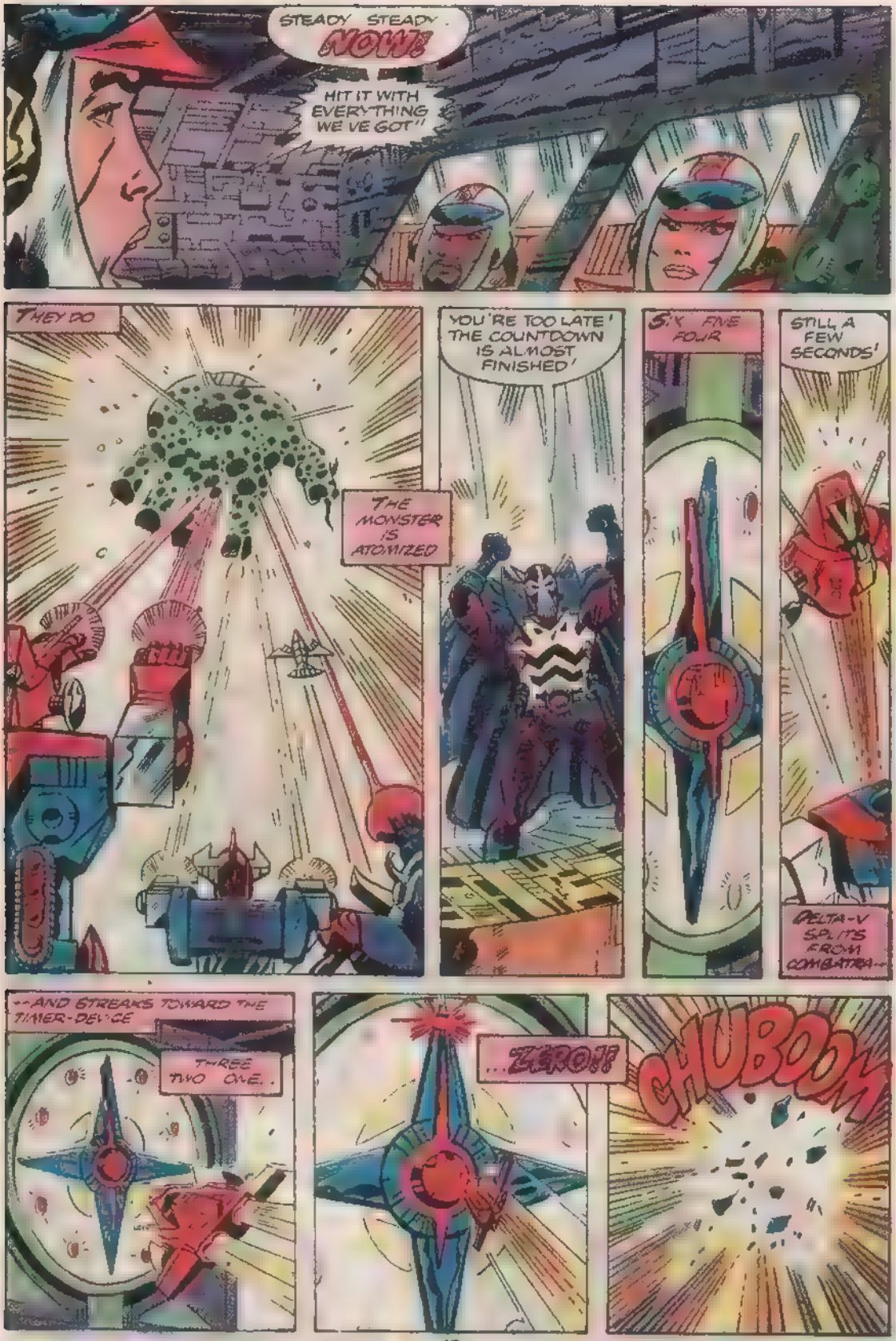
"YOU MUST BECOME "ONE" WITH THE ENDELIN WARRIORS, SERVING THE ROBOTS EVEN AS THEY SERVE YOU!
"AND, TOO, YOU MUST MERGE WITH EACH OTHER IF YOU ARE TO TRULY UNITE!
"YOU MUST FIGHT WITH INSTINCTIVE, UNBROKEN TEAMWORK!"
AND SO THEY MERGE--ALTHOUGH THE PROSPECT IS ALWAYS FRIGHTENING, THE EXPERIENCE ALWAYS HARROWING.
VIA THE CYBEPHETIC HELMETS, THEY CHANNEL THEIR VERY SENSES INTO THE ROBOTS...
...AND FROM THERE, THE ROBOTS TAKE OVER!
LET'S DO IT!
FIRST, THEY UNITE AS A TEAM...
AND THEN--
--THEY EXPLODE INTO AWESOME ACTION!


SKANG
RAYDEEN LAUNCHES A DEVASTATING OFFENSIVE BARRAGE, USING CONCUSSION BOOMERANG...
CHOOM
...SHOCK ARROW...
SHEERAK
...AND SCREAMER HAWK!
CERBERUS! ITS BODY HAS BEEN DESTROYED!
AND THE HEAD-COMPONENTS QUICKLY FOLLOW...
RAKT
TOOM
AS DANGARD ACE USES HIS CHEST-MISSILES TO WIPE OUT THE LAST TWO..
...THEN TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO HIS OLD FOE! THE STARCHILD MONSTER..
BOOSH

IN RAPID SUCCESSION, THE HIDEOUS CREATURE IS ASSAULTED BY DANGARD'S EYE-LASERS AND ROCKET-FIST..
VEEEEE
HWAM
COMBATRA THEN JOINS THE FRAY, LAUNCHING FINGERTIP BULLET-MISSILES AT THE ALREADY WEAKENED STAR-CHILD..
DOOSH! DOOSH! DOOSH!
AND THE TEAMWORK PAYS OFF.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
THAT'S TWO DOWN AND ONE TO GO.
THE LAST FOE IS THE HAND OF FIVE'-- WHOSE FIVE HEADS NOW JOIN WITH THEIR HAND HOUSING...
HOLD BACK--LET IT MAKE ITS MOVE.
STEEL YOURSELVES HERE IT COMES.


STEADY STEADY... NOW!
HIT IT WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!!
THEY DO
THE MONSTER IS ATOMIZED
YOU'RE TOO LATE! THE COUNTDOWN IS ALMOST FINISHED!
5'K FIVE FOUR
STILL A FEW SECONDS!
DELTA-V SPLITS FROM COMBATRA--
--AND STREAKS TOWARD THE TIMER-DEVICE
THREE TWO ONE..
...ZERO!!
CHUBOOM

INSIDE, BENJI OSHIRO IS PHYSICALLY SHAKEN AND MENTALLY DEMORALIZED...
I DID IT--BUT WAS I TOO LATE? THE COUNTDOWN HAD ALREADY REACHED ZERO!
AND DEMONICUS CROWS IN MAD TRIUMPH: "THAT'S RIGHT! IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT YOU DEFEATED MY CREATIONS!
"THAT METEOR HAS ALREADY BEEN SLUNG PAST THIS SPACE STATION, HEADED STRAIGHT FOR EARTH--AND THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STOP IT!"
WHAT CAN THEY DO, DR. TAMBURA?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
A TRAGIC SIGHT FOR ONCE, TAMBURA IS UTTERLY HELPLESS.
WE'VE GOT TO GIVE THEM INSTRUCTIONS--FAST!
I KNOW, CHARN BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN--
THEN, BENJI'S VOICE COMES THROUGH...
WE CAN'T STOP THE METEOR, BUT MAYBE THIS SPACE STATION ITSELF CAN--IF WE ADD SOME THRUST TO IT.
EH--?
IN EFFECT ONE OF US WOULD HAVE TO TURN HIMSELF INTO ANOTHER JET--ALMOST STUFFED DOWN THE THROATS OF THE STATION'S REAL JETS.
THE HEAT WOULD BE TREMENDOUS--OUR THERMAL SHIELDS MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE IT. THE ROBOT COULD MELT AND THE PILOT WOULD BE--
IT'S A RISK WE'VE GOT TO TAKE--AND I'LL TAKE IT.
NO--ME. I'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE.
LOOK, CARGON YOU'VE BEEN TOO POMPOUS EVER SINCE WE BECAME SHOGUN WARRIORS--ALWAYS THINKING RAYDEEN'S BETTER! BUT YOU'RE JUST A HOTHEADED PRIMA DONNA--DANGARD'S THRUST IS EVERY BIT AS POWERFUL AS YOURS!
YEAH? JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO, SAVAGE?



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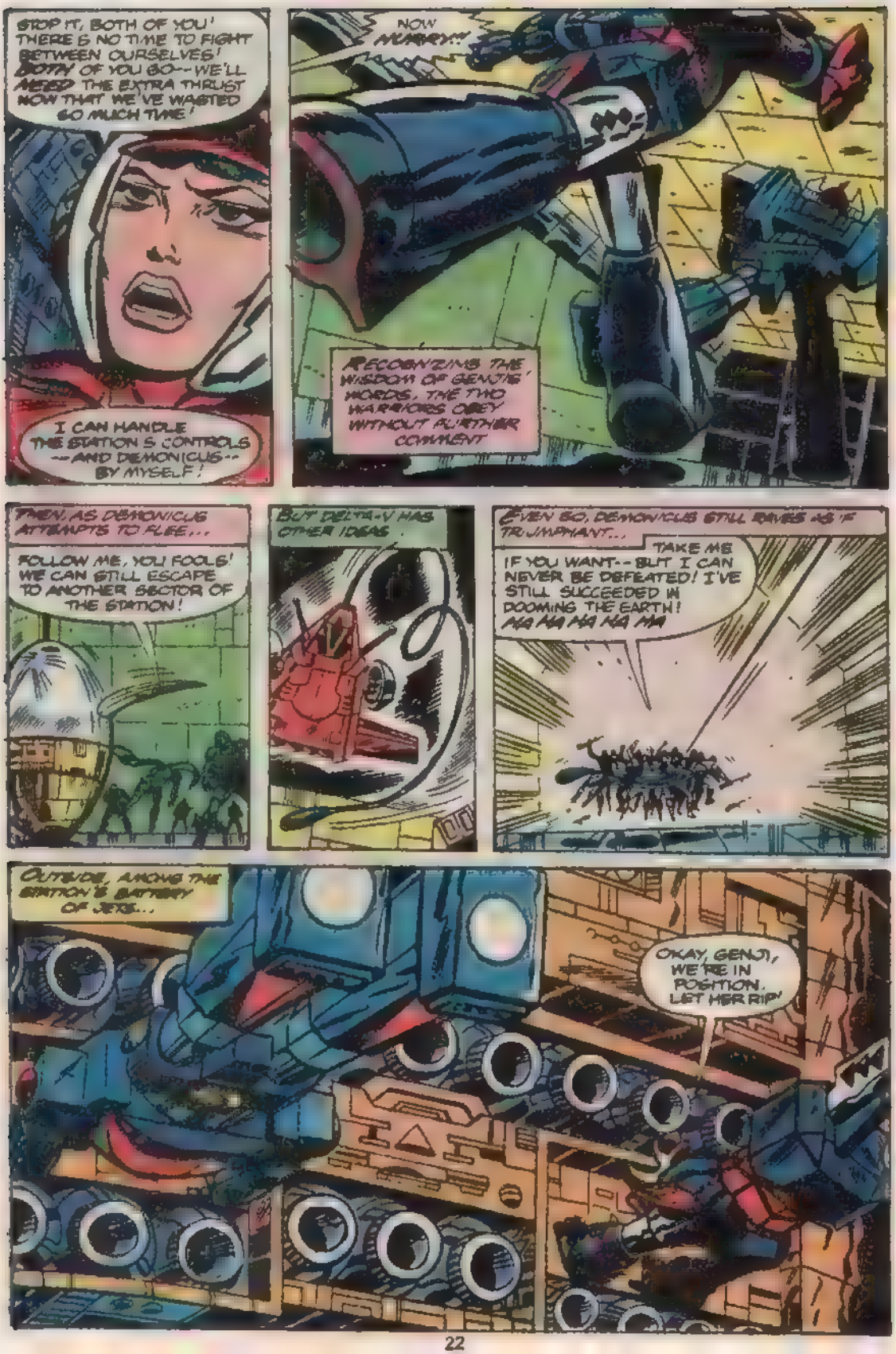
STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU! THERE IS NO TIME TO FIGHT BETWEEN OURSELVES! BOTH OF YOU GO--WE'LL NEED THE EXTRA THRUST NOW THAT WE'VE WASTED SO MUCH TIME!
I CAN HANDLE THE STATION'S CONTROLS --AND DEMONICUS-- BY MYSELF!
NOW MYAMOTO!!
RECOGNIZING THE WISDOM OF GENJI'S WORDS, THE TWO WARRIORS OBEY WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT
THEN, AS DEMONICUS ATTEMPTS TO FLEE...
FOLLOW ME, YOU FOOLS! WE CAN STILL ESCAPE TO ANOTHER SECTOR OF THE STATION!
BUT DELTA-V HAS OTHER IDEAS.
EVEN SO, DEMONICUS STILL RAVES AS IF TRIUMPHANT...
TAKE ME IF YOU WANT--BUT I CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED! I'VE STILL SUCCEEDED IN DOOMING THE EARTH! HA HA HA HA HA
OUTSIDE, AMONG THE STATION'S BATTERY OF JETS...
OKAY, GENJI, WE'RE IN POSITION. LET HER RIP!

BACK INSIDE, GENJI HAS EMERGED FROM DELTA, BUT NOW HESITATES AT THE STATION'S MAIN CONTROL CONSOLE...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? I MEAN... I COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT BE SENDING THE TWO OF YOU TO YOUR--
JUST HIT THAT THRUST CONTROL, GENJI!
DO IT!
SHE DOES--AND THE TWO WARRIORS ARE WRACKED BY A FIRESTORM.
ALL RIGHT, THIS IS THE TEST--WE'VE ADDED OUR OWN BOOT-JETS TO THE POWER OF THE STATION. NOW TO SEE IF THE COMBINED THRUST ATTAINS ENOUGH VELOCITY TO OVERTAKE THAT METEOR--
--BEFORE IT SLAMS THE EARTH.
RIGHT, CARSON--AND BEFORE WE ROAST TO DEATH.
WE MAY BE IN LUCK ON THAT SCORE, SAVAGE. IT'S TIGHT, BUT THE HEAT-SHIELDS SEEM TO BE HOLDING UP.
SHIELD TEMPERA
SAFE
CAUTION
DANGER
50
100
200
300
AND SO, THE FANTASTIC RACE IS ON...
WITH AN ENDANGERED, BUT UNSUSPECTING EARTH WAITING AT THE FINISH LINE.
AND ON EARTH--AT RICHARD CARSON'S HOME OUTSIDE LOS ANGELES, TO BE PRECISE...
WHY DO THESE THINGS ALWAYS HAVE TO HAPPEN?
ARDVA JAMES DRINKS THE NIGHT'S NINTH CUP OF COFFEE.
FIRST, LIKE AN IDIOT, I GET JEALOUS ABOUT GENJI, AND THEN SHE AND RICHARD DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR--
--JUST AS I'M ABOUT TO APOLOGIZE.



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SO NOW I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE OR WHEN I'LL SEE RICHARD AGAIN... IF EVER.
FOOEY. MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME AIR.
NOTHING ON NOW BUT TEST PATTERNS ANYWAY.
BE DAWN SOON AND I STILL CAN'T SLEEP--
WHAT'S THAT?
TWO FALLING STARS -- "TO WISH UPON." ALL RIGHT.. I WISH...
I WISH I COULD TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID TO RICHARD AND GENJI AND... I HOPE THEY'RE SAFE AND FAR FROM DANGER.
BUT LITTLE DOES DEENA KNOW THAT THE "FALLING STARS" ARE NOT, EITHER OF THEM, STARS.
WE'VE CAUGHT UP WITH IT, CARSON!
YEAH, BUT IT'S TOO LATE, SAVAGE.
THE THING IS ALREADY WELL WITHIN EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL FIELD...UNLESS WE COULD USE PART OF--
WAIT! ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
YEP.
THEN FIRST WE'VE GOT TO SECURE GENJI.
GENJI, SEAL ALL INTERNAL HATCHES IN THERE, ALL CORRIDORS, AND STAY WHERE YOU ARE! DON'T GO TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STATION FOR ANY REASON!
GENJI'S VOICE REPLIES: "OKAY, EVERYTHING'S SEALED, BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"
THE ANSWER IS MANDELOWN: FROM OPPOSITE SIDES, RAYDEEN AND DANSARD SLICE THE ENTIRE SPACE STATION IN HALF!

THEN--
HERE GOES NOTHING!
--USING THEIR COMBINED STRENGTH, THEY AWAKE THE UNOCCUPIED HALF AT THE RECEDING METEOR...
BINGO! WE DEFLECTED IT AWAY FROM EARTH-- JUST LIKE KNOCKING THE EIGHT-BALL INTO A SIDE POCKET!
INSIDE THE REMAINING HALF, GENJI WHOOPS: THEY DID IT! WE DID IT!!
OTHERS WITHIN ARE LESS PLEASED...
NO...
...CAN'T BE... NOT FAILURE... NOT AGAIN...
EVEN AS DEMONICUS SPEAKS, GENJI REENTERS DELTA AND LOCKS WITH COMBATRON'S BODY...
THE GIANT ROBOT THEN WASS A RINGER...
NOT LAUGHING SO HARD NOW, ARE YOU, DEMONICUS?
AND, AT SANCTUARY...
IT SEEMS WE REALLY DID PICK THE BEST AGENTS EARTH COULD OFFER-- THEY CAME UP WITH A SOLUTION EVEN I HADN'T FORESEEN. CONGRATULATIONS, SHOGUN WARRIORS!
NOW...WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH DEMONICUS?



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WE'LL PUT HIM BACK WHERE HE BELONGS, DOC--DROP HIM OFF AS CLOSE AS WE CAN GET TO THE SPOT WHERE HE ESCAPED.
EPILOGUE:
OUR SATILLITE RADAR WAS ON THE BUTTON--SOMETHIN'S COMIN' IN FOR A SPLASHDOWN AWRIGHT... BUT IT SURE AIN'T SKYLAB OR ANY OTHER FALLIN' DEBRIS...
IT'S COMIN' DOWN TOO SLOW...
...AIN'T EVEN BURNIN' UP ON REENTRY...
LOOK, DUM DUM! GIANT ROBOTS--THREE OF THEM--LIKE RED RONIN! MUST BE THOSE "SHOGUN WARRIORS" WE'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT!
RIGHT, GABE, BUT WHERE IN BLAZES DID THAT MANGLED SPACE STATION COME FROM--?
AND WHAT'S INSIDE IT?
WELL, I'LL BE--! IF IT AIN'T OUR OLD PAL DOC DEMONICUS! LET'S GO DOWN TO PICK HIM UP-- HE'S GOT SOME FANCY EXPLAININ' TO DO.
HEY--THE ROBOTS ARE TAKING OFF, DUM DUM--WITHOUT A SINGLE WORD.
HMP! PRETTY SNOOTY! MAYBE THEY THINK THEY'RE HEROES OR SOMETHIN'.
NEXT ISSUE: ASSAULT ON SANCTUARY!